

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 18, 20, 22-24 and 27-31 are amended. Reconsideration is respectfully request in view of the following remarks.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 10-17 and 22-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Athing (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,498); and rejects claims 8, 9 and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kelley (U.S. Patent No. 6,601,088). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Athing does not disclose or suggest feature extracting means for extracting a feature... associated with electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network, and deciding means for deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted based on the feature extracted by the feature extracting means, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 2 and 3. Athing discloses in Fig. 18, and col. 12, lines 20-47 that an e-mail display screen, whose configuration is selected by the user, displays e-mail messages. A row of display window screen buttons provides user operations to compose, send, reply, and delete messages.

However, nowhere does Athing disclose or suggest extracting a feature... associated with electronic information...and deciding means for deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted based on the feature.

For reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, Athing does not disclose or suggest extracting a feature associated with electronic information...and deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from a previously extracted feature based on an instruction from a client, as recited in independent claim 12, and similarly recited in independent claim 13.

For reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, Athing does not disclose or suggest inputting a feature associated with electronic information from terminal equipment... deleting unnecessary electronic information that is extracted as the deletion object from the storing means, according to an instruction from the terminal equipment, as recited in independent claim 23, and similarly in independent claim 27. Similarly, Athing does not disclose or suggest inputting a feature associated with electronic information from terminal equipment... transferring the electronic information extracted as the deletion object from the storing means to a temporary storage server via a network according to an instruction from the terminal equipment, as recited in independent claim 24.

Moreover, for similar reasons, Athing does not disclose or suggest extracting a feature associated with electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network, and deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from a previously extracted feature based on an instruction from a client, as recited in independent claim 28. For similar reasons, Athing does not disclose or suggest accepting a feature associated with the electronic information to be deleted, and accepting a deletion execution instruction for unnecessary electronic information that is to be deleted and extracted from the storing means according to the accepted feature, as recited in independent claim 30. Likewise, Athing does not disclose or suggest accepting an input of a feature associated with electronic information from terminal equipment and extracting information to be deleted from the electronic information stored in storing means of the terminal equipment, and transferring the electronic information extracted as the deletion object from the storing mean, as recited in independent claim 31.

Kelly does not compensate for the above noted deficiencies of Kelly. Specifically, Kelly discloses automatically deleting e-mail message from a server via a delete command from an originator or a receiver of the e-mail message.

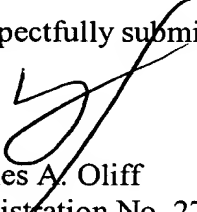
Therefore, independent claims 1-3, 12, 13, 23-24, 27-28 and 30-31, define patentable subject matter. Claims 4-22, 25, 26 and 29 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-31 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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